

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An electronic method of improving the efficiency of a radiologist, comprising the steps of:

a) providing a system that includes a computer and a plurality of monitors interfaced with the computer, each monitor for displaying an image;

b) using at least one of the monitors to simulate a radiology "light box" for displaying electronic radiology images;

c) using at least one of the monitors to simulate a digital graphical representation of a patient's manual master folder comprising the steps of:

(i) generating by a specialized software application the digital graphical representation of the patient's manual master folder as an image on the monitor specifically designed for use as a graphical user interface by the radiologist;

(ii) generating data fields on the digital graphical representation including patient information, medical procedures information and radiologist information regarding all radiology procedures associated with such patient stored in an information database;

(iii) providing information and hyperlinks to radiology reports and images in an electronic layout and color scheme conforming to the layout and color scheme of the patient's manual master folder and tailored to a radiologist practice; and

(iv) including hyperlinks within at least one data field to provide for the viewing of additional information or images relating to a patient's medical records when clicked;

d) using a hyperlink to open the folder displayed in step "c" to display information contained in the folder; and

e) using a hyperlink that accesses the folder to display a current radiology image from a current radiology procedure being performed on the patient to permit diagnosis.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein in step "d" a voice activated command is used to open the patient's master folder.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein in step "d" a trackball device is used to open the patient's master folder.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of providing a combination dictation and trackball device, and wherein in step "d" a user can selectively use either a voice activated command or a trackball to open the patient's master folder.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of using the computer to interface the monitors and the hyperlink.

6. (Original) The method of claim 4 further comprising the step of using the computer to interface the monitors and the combination dictation and trackball device.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein there are two monitors in step "c" that are used to display electronic radiology images.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the monitor in step "c" that is used to display electronic radiology images is a high resolution monitor.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the monitors in step "c" that are used to display electronic radiology images is a high resolution monitor.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein in step "b" the image viewed is an ultrasound image.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein in step "b" the image viewed is a magnetic resonance image.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein in step "b" the image viewed is a computer tomography image.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein in step "b" the image viewed is a computer radiology image.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein in step "b" the image viewed is a nuclear medicine image.

15. (Currently Amended) A method for reviewing electronic radiology information including patient demographics, radiology procedures, radiology reports and radiology images, comprising the steps of:

- a) loading the radiology information associated with a selected group of patients that are assigned to a selected radiologist into a computer memory;
- b) generating by a specialized software application an image of a radiology manual master folder on an area of a computer display for use as a graphical user interface by the radiologist;
- c) generating data fields associated with a digital master folder on the image of a patient's manual master folder including patient's name, medical record number, date of birth, sex, and information regarding all procedures associated with such patient stored in an information database including date, type of procedure, report, and radiologist, the digital master folder specifically designed for use by a radiologist;
- d) displaying the information associated with the patient from computer memory in data fields on the computer display in an electronic layout and color scheme conforming to the layout and color scheme of the patient's manual master folder;
- e) providing hyperlinks within the procedure and report data fields to provide for the viewing of additional information or images relating to a patient's medical records when clicked, the information and images displayed in electronic formats and configurations tailored to a radiology practice;
- f) clicking on the report field, displays a new window that contains the text of the report and a link to the digitally recorded dictation of the report, that when clicked will play the recording;
- g) placing a cursor over the report field on the digital master folder, to display summary information of the report;
- h) clicking on the procedure field to send a command to a viewing portal to load all of the procedures and images that meet the criteria of the radiologist's file;

- i) viewing current radiology images from a current radiology procedure being performed on the patient together with images from prior radiology procedures;
- j) generating a searchable and selectable list of patients that have procedures assigned to the radiologist on the computer display; and
- k) providing commands that navigate through the stack of master folders, displaying information associated with a new patient in a data field on the computer display from computer memory.

16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus to access, store, and distribute electronic radiology information including patient demographics, radiology procedures, radiology reports and radiology images comprising:

- a) an information data base including patient demographics, radiology identification number, procedures, images, reports, orders and appointments;
- b) means for transmitting and receiving the information between computers connected to a computer network via extensible markup language (XML), HTTP, TCP/IP;
- c) means for searching for a plurality of user specified types of information contained in the information data base;
- d). means for generating by a specialized software application a digital master folder representation of a patient's manual master folder for displaying the specified types of information over a monitor of a computer connected to the computer network, the digital master folder representation specifically designed for use as a graphical user interface by a radiologist;
- e). means for generating data fields on the digital master folder representation including radiology reports and images information regarding all radiology procedures associated with such patient stored in the information database;
- f). means for viewing current radiology images from a current radiology procedure being performed on the patient;
- g). means for displaying the radiology reports and images in an electronic layout and color scheme conforming to the layout and color scheme of the patient's manual master folder and tailored to a radiology practice; and
- h). means for providing hyperlinks within at least one data field to provide for the viewing of additional information or images relating to a patient's medical records when clicked.

17. (Currently Amended) A multi-monitor radiology image viewing system comprising:

- a) a plurality of monitors;
- b) a combination dictation and trackball device that provides a hyperlink for the viewing of the patients' information and medical images on separate monitors comprising:
 - c) a radiology portal that includes a monitor and a computer for the searching and that includes viewing medical information, the medical information displayed over the monitor by generating by a specialized software application a digital master folder representation of a patient's manual master folder, the digital master folder representation specifically designed for use as a graphical user interface by a radiologist;
 - d) said digital master folder representation providing data fields included within the digital master folder representation providing information and links to radiology reports and images regarding all radiology procedures associated with such patient stored in an information database in an electronic layout and color scheme conforming to the layout and color scheme of the patient's manual master folder and tailored to a radiology practice, such links providing for the viewing of additional information or images relating to a patient's medical records when clicked;
 - e) said viewing portal consisting of at least two monitors designed for the viewing of a plurality of radiology images including computer radiology, computer tomography, ultrasound, nuclear medicine, and magnetic resonance images, such images including current radiology images from a current radiology procedure being performed on the patient and images from prior radiology procedures; and
 - f) said combination dictation and trackball device including a voice component that issues operational and navigational commands to the radiology portal and viewing portal by providing continuous speech recognition for the creation of dictated radiology reports.

18. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the radiology portal consists of a flat panel monitor and computer for the searching and viewing of medical information stored internal and external to the system.

19. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the radiology portal consists of a touch screen flat panel monitor and computer for searching and viewing of medical information stored internal and external to the system.

20. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the radiology portal consists of a flat panel monitor and computer with multi-processors for searching and viewing of medical information stored internal and external to the system.

21. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the radiology portal consists of a touch screen flat panel monitor and computer with multi processors for searching and viewing of medical information stored internal and external to the system.

22. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the viewing portal consists of a single high-resolution monitors design for the viewing of a plurality of radiology images including computer radiology, computer tomography, ultrasound, nuclear medicine, and magnetic resonance images.

23. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the viewing portal consists of a single high-resolution computer monitor.

24. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the viewing portal consists of two high-resolution computer monitors.

25. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the viewing portal consists of a four high-resolution monitors design for the viewing of a plurality of radiology images including computer radiology, computer tomography, ultrasound, nuclear medicine, and magnetic resonance images.

26. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the viewing portal includes six high-resolution monitors for the viewing of a plurality of radiology images including computer radiology, computer tomography, ultrasound, nuclear medicine, and magnetic resonance images.

27. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the viewing portal consists of eight high-resolution monitors design for the viewing of a plurality of radiology images including computer radiology, computer tomography, ultrasound, nuclear medicine, and magnetic resonance images.

28. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the combination dictation and trackball device includes a separate mouse and microphone.

29. (Canceled).

30. (Canceled).

31. (Canceled).